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**STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**ASA HUTCHINSON**  
**GOVERNOR**

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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**Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) funding is an important piece of an overall strategy for expanding the availability of broadband service in rural America. Arkansas is primarily a rural state, and the expansion of broadband is vital to the economic and educational development of Arkansas. Computer programming education has been a key part of my vision for Arkansas, and the Natural State now leads the nation in computer science education, with more than a 300% increase in the number of students taking computer science courses.

Fully funding the A-CAM program will result in significant gains in broadband availability in Arkansas. The companies in Arkansas that accepted the revised offer of A-CAM support in January 2017 committed at that time to deploy broadband to a specific number of additional locations if further funding were made available by December 31, 2017. Collectively, additional funding up to \$200/month per location would result in 2,688 additional A-CAM funded locations in Arkansas which would have access to 25/3 Mbps broadband service. This additional availability would assist students and enable graduates to utilize the computer coding skills they learned under our initiative.

Full funding to further extend broadband in our communities would result in broader economic and social benefits for rural Arkansans and benefit not just those areas but the entire state. The economic, educational, and health benefits that would accrue to the state and its citizens would provide opportunities to compete and thrive in the global economy.

I urge the Commission to act now to make additional funding available before year-end so that the promise of broadband expansion contained in its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location can be realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Asa Hutchinson in black ink.

Asa Hutchinson

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